

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of December 3rd, 2006

Romans 1.3-4; The Focus of our Lives

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

C.S. Lewis, once wrote, "We must think of the Son always, so to speak, streaming forth from the Father, like light from a lamp, or heat from a fire, or thoughts from a mind. He is the self expression of the Father - what the Father has to say. And there never was a time when he was not saying it."

What do we think of Christ? The answer to that question lies mostly in the way we live our lives rather than what we profess to believe. Our daily lives reveal a great deal about whether we believe Christ is trustworthy or not. His claim is that we can put our full weight upon him, that he can be trusted fully. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7) he was so bold as to say that when we build our lives upon him, it is like building a house on a rock. The alternative, according to Christ, is to build upon sand - which will surely fail us. This week is all about that Rock that we know as Jesus. He merits our consideration and more than that, our devotion. May we grow in our allegiance to him as we talk about he who is the focus of our lives.

Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Aim** – The old proverb says, that if we “aim at nothing; we will hit it every time.” Think about the people you rub shoulders with every day. What are they focused upon or aiming at?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Ask each person in your group to write down the 5 most pressing concerns of their life. When everyone is finished, read together Romans 1:1-6 (focusing on verses 3-4).

1. Paul does not waste much time getting right into meaty stuff in this letter to the Roman believers. Why do you think he was so quick to talk about Christ?
2. Paul talks about two aspects of Christ's identity. What are they? Which do you identify with more strongly?
3. Christ's relationships with the other persons of the Trinity are touched upon in verses 3-4. What do we learn about the three who together are the Triune God?
4. Please read Philippians: 2:1-11 and Hebrews 4: 14-16. What do these passages tell us about Christ's humanity?
5. What do they tell us about his divinity?

Getting Personal:

- Some would tell us that studying Christ is not very practical or relevant to everyday lives. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?
- Taking one passage at a time, look once again at Romans 1:3-4, Philippians 2:1-11, and Hebrews 4:14-16. Answer the following question as it pertains to each passage: “How does what this passage says about Jesus impact our everyday lives?” In other words, what can we apply from what we know about Jesus?
- Have everyone take a look at their list of concerns that they wrote down earlier in the evening. Ask them to consider how Christ is relevant to those concerns. Ask the group members if they would be willing to share about one of their concerns (and how Christ is relevant to that concern).

Putting it into Practice:

- Ask group members to share how they would like to put tonight's lesson into practice during the coming week.